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APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 664,505	09 18 2000	Timothy S. Vraa	81500WEN	4599

1333 7590 03 13 2002

PATENT LEGAL STAFF
EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY
343 STATE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14650-2201

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, LARRY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 03 13 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/664,505	VRAA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Larry D Taylor	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okano et al. (US 5,448,324) in view of Renner et al. (US 5,428,659, of record).

Okano teaches a sheet media package 1 wherein the package is light tight. The package may be within a light tight pack cartridge 8, the cartridge including an open tray 22 for holding the sheet media, the tray able to slide in and out of the cartridge, therefore sealing and resealing the sheet media within the cartridge.

Okano fails to suggest the package or cartridge as having a transponder with a read/write memory for communicating data relevant to the contents of the package or cartridge with a transceiver in an apparatus.

Renner teaches a cartridge 1 holding light sensitive recording film material, the cartridge containing a memory 6 and coupler 3 functioning as a transponder for transmitting radio signals to a cassette identification device 2. The memory of the transponder can be read from and written to via receiver circuits 44, 45, 46, and transmitter circuits 41, 42, 43, respectively. The data within the memory of the "transponder" can consist of a plurality of information pertaining to identification of the cartridge or contents of the cartridge, which would include any sheet film data or data about the status of the cartridge (see figures 1, 2, and 6, abstract, col. 2, lines 49-63 and col. 5, lines 14-26).

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It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the package or cartridge with a transponder. It is common in the art for printing devices, such as thermal printers within a printer or camera, to have transponders attached to detachable devices that are used within said printer. Film, paper, or toner cartridges are known in the art at this time to have bar codes present thereon, allowing the camera or printer to identify the cartridge, ensuring the cartridge is of the proper type and status for use within. A radio transponder simply provides another means of communicating such data to the camera or printer, affording radio wave technology instead of an image or light scanner. It also would have been an obvious expedient to provide the transponder within either the package or cartridge, as either position would effectively communicate with the receiving device.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ishiduka et al. (US 6,217,019 B1) and Hirano et al. (US 6,246,466) teaches sheet packages with communicative indicia thereon.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larry D Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 306-5867. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 - 5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-4784 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Larry D Taylor
March 11, 2002



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER